

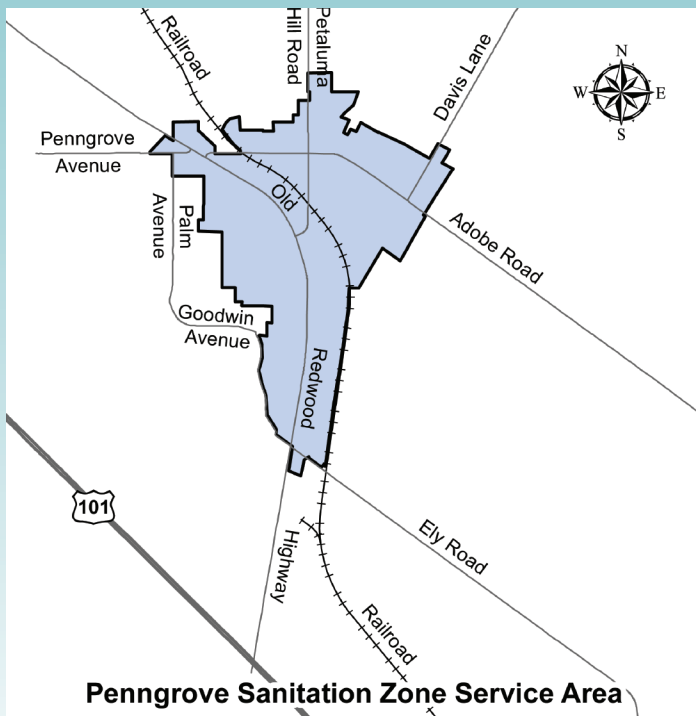
# PENNGROVE SANITATION ZONE **NEWS**

## INSIDE FALL 2013

- 2 Budget Update
- 2 How to Contact Your Board
- 2 Efficiency Programs
- 3 Employee Spotlight
- 3 FOG
- 4 Watch What You Flush



The Penngrove Sanitation Zone routes wastewater through its lift station to the City of Petaluma's Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility.



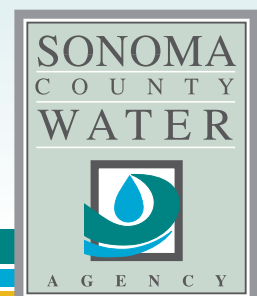
## About Your Sanitation Zone

During a 1995 restructuring of the Sonoma County government, the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) assumed responsibility for managing and operating 11 different sanitation districts and zones. Currently the Water Agency manages and operates eight different sanitation districts and zones throughout Sonoma County, including the Penngrove Sanitation Zone (Zone).

The Zone serves 501 Equivalent Single-Family Dwellings within a 475-acre service area.

The wastewater collected from the Zone is routed through its lift station to the City of Petaluma's Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility (Facility) where it is treated to meet tertiary standards. High-quality tertiary treated recycled water is an important source of water and its use offsets potable water demands.

Approximately 71 percent of the Zone's sewer fees cover the cost of disposing and treating its wastewater at the Facility. ●



[www.sonomacountywater.org/penngrove-sanitation-zone](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/penngrove-sanitation-zone)

# High-Efficiency Fixture Direct Install Program

The Zone offers a limited number of high-efficiency fixture retrofits at no cost to all properties with active sewer connections.



The High-Efficiency Fixture Direct Install Program includes:

- Replacement of at least one high-flush toilet (3.5 gallons per flush or more) with a new high-efficiency toilet (1.1 gallons per flush or less) from the list of Qualifying Toilet Models or
- Replacement of at least one urinal (1.0 gallons per flush or more) with a high-efficiency urinal (0.125 gallons per flush or less) from the list of Qualifying Urinal Models.

In addition, the program offers free:

- Replacement of all high-flow faucet aerators with new high-efficiency models (2.0, 1.5 or 0.5 gallons per minute) and
- Replacement of all high-flow showerheads with new high-efficiency models (1.5 gallons per minute).

To participate, you must register your property on the program wait list. Properties will be selected on a first come, first served basis based on funding availability. For more information or to register, go online to [www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/direct-install) to sign up on the waiting list or call the Water Efficiency Program at 707.547.1918. ●

## Water Efficiency Rebate Program

Zone customers may participate in the following Rebate Program:

**Clothes Washer Rebate** — Receive up to \$125 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW). Rebates are available for all “Tier 3” listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion technology.

**Toilet Rebate** — Get up to \$150 back on the purchase and installation of each new, qualifying high-efficiency toilet (HET) from the List of Qualifying Models.

Rebates on high-efficiency clothes washers and toilets are available on a first come, first served basis through June 30,

2014, while funding lasts. For more information, call the Water Efficiency Program at 707.547.1918 or go online to [www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation-rebates](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/sanitation-rebates). ●

## Budget Update

The budget year starts on July 1 of each year and runs through June 30 of the following year.

For Zone customers, the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 flat rate fee is \$1,293 per year per “equivalent single-family dwelling” (ESD).

For more information, contact Manuel Olvera, Engineering Technician III, or Candi Bryon, Department Analyst, at 707.526.5370. ●

## How to Contact Your Board

The Zone’s Board of Directors is the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Your Board members and their e-mail addresses include the following:

- First District Supervisor/Director Susan Gorin — [Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org)
- Second District Supervisor/Director David Rabbitt — [David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org](mailto:David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org)
- Third District Supervisor/Director Shirlee Zane — [Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org)
- Fourth District Supervisor/Director Mike McGuire — [MikeMcguire@sonoma-county.org](mailto:MikeMcguire@sonoma-county.org)
- Fifth District Supervisor/Director Efren Carrillo — [Efren.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Efren.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org)

Directors may also be contacted by phone: 707.565.2241 and fax: 707.565.3778.

The Board normally holds its regular meetings on Tuesdays, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. For more information, go online to [www.sonomacountywater.org/board-of-directors](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/board-of-directors). ●

## Employee Spotlight: Senior Plant Operator Job Described as a ‘Craft’

Sylvan Eidelman described being a senior plant operator at the Water Agency as a craft that involves not only technical aspects but also the necessary experience and knowledge to perform the job properly.

One part of a 14-member team, Sylvan began his journey to the Water Agency with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Sonoma State. Sylvan calls himself a “hands-on type of person,” which suited him to carrying out the Water Agency's dual role of providing both drinking water and wastewater services.

To qualify as a senior plant operator, he has the requisite certifications from both



the California Department of Public Health and State Water Resources Control Board. In addition, he must renew his license every three years and take 25 units of continuing education credits.

He emphasized that plant operators must stay current in all of the Water Agency's drinking water and wastewater treatment plants and that their shifts continuously rotate to ensure their expertise in all locations. He said he has a “sense of pride” in his job and is “very, very proud of the work we do.”

He encouraged others, especially students, to think about a career in the drinking water and wastewater fields. ●

## Social Media Channels Open Up Multiple Lines of Communication

The Water Agency has an active social media communications program, including a website with a special section for Zone customers at [www.sonomacountywater.org/penngrove-sanitation-zone](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/penngrove-sanitation-zone).

In addition, social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, provide information to a wider segment of customers – especially those always on the go – of late-breaking news, upcoming calendar events and key issues.

- Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sonomacountywater](http://www.facebook.com/sonomacountywater)
- Lights, cameras, YouTube! Check out the Water Agency's educational videos on its YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/sonomacountywater](http://www.youtube.com/user/sonomacountywater).
- Follow the Twitter feed at <https://twitter.com/SCWA>
- To receive the Water Agency's monthly eNewsletter, subscribe at [www.sonomacountywater.org/newsletter-archive](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/newsletter-archive)
- To receive email notifications of press releases, sign up at [www.sonomacountywater.org/press-releases](http://www.sonomacountywater.org/press-releases) ●

## Never Pour FOG Down Sink

You can do your part to help prevent sanitary sewer overflows by properly disposing of fats, oils and grease, referred to as “FOG”.

FOG, which among other items includes frying and cooking oils, salad dressings, soups, meat trimmings and bacon fat, often gets washed into the public sewer system through the kitchen sink.

FOG should never be poured down the drain because it can adhere to the insides of household and local sewer pipes, clog them and cause sewer backups, and/or overflows into the environment, and increased customer sewer rates to pay for sewer maintenance and plumbing repairs.



*A sewer line clogged with fat and grease.*

Your Zone provides FREE grease scrapers to help you keep FOG from going down the drain. Call the Water Agency Public Affairs Hotline at 707.524.6430. ●

Penngrove Sanitation Zone  
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency  
404 Aviation Blvd.  
Santa Rosa CA 95403

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SANTA ROSA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 64

## Watch What You Flush

To keep household and community sewer systems operating around the clock with maintenance costs kept to a minimum, your Zone asks customers to please do not use their toilets as trash cans. To put it as tactfully as possible, human waste and toilet paper should be all that's flushed down the toilet.

Topping the list of the biggest offenders that should never be flushed down the toilet (even if the product's packaging says "flushable" or "disposable") are wet wipes, diapers, dental floss, facial tissues, paper towels, coffee grounds, sanitary products (including plastic tampon applicators), underwear, toys, medicine and medications, makeup, hair, seeds, grease, kitty box litter and cigarette butts.

The Water Agency and other partners sponsor the Safe Medicine Disposal Program to allow for the safe disposal of unused and unwanted medications. To find the closest drop-off location to you, visit [www.safemedicinedisposal.org](http://www.safemedicinedisposal.org) or contact Susan Keach, Environmental Compliance Inspector, at 707.521.1820 or [susan.keach@scwa.ca.gov](mailto:susan.keach@scwa.ca.gov). ●

## Compliance with Public Health, Environmental Regulations

Wide-ranging regulatory standards for public health and the environment are set by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and in turn implemented through the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB).

The Zone operates under a statewide permit from the SWRCB in turn implemented through the San Francisco Bay RWQCB.

Complying with these often-costly regulations result in Zone capital improvement projects and increased rates.

For more information about the California Water Boards, go to this website link: [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov). ●

*Securing our Future by Investing in our Water Resources, Environment & Community*

[www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org)

